

Voters face historic choice

By Dr. Jim Kenny
publisher

Driving to Hanceville on July 25 for a historic meeting of employees of the Alabama College System, Shelton State Dean of Students Humphrey Lee was philosophical about the chances for passage of the Sept. 9 referendum promoted by Gov. Bob Riley.

As Lee took another turn through the Alabama backwoods, he said, "It doesn't look good, but all we can do is get the word out that the taxes won't hurt as much as people think and the changes will help more than people can imagine."

And that has, indeed, been

the message supporters of Riley and the referendum have taken to the people—in TV and radio ads and in town meetings, such as those held in Hillcrest High and Tuscaloosa County High on Aug. 21 and 22.

An audience of about 150 seemed mildly receptive to the panel assembled by the League of Women Voters at Hillcrest High. Though, through it all, they seemed suspicious.

Indeed, Riley's tax and accountability plan seems to come down to a matter of faith. This is where the governor's reputation as a conservative should help him. Once recognized as the most con-



Photo/Dr. Jim Kenny

Speaking at the Hillcrest Townhall meeting are (L-R) Dr. Cullpepper Clark, Neil Wade, the Rev. Smith Moore, Dr. Carl Ferguson, Judge John England and Tuscaloosa County Superintendent Joyce Sellers.

servative member of the U.S. Congress, who, his supporters

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Fine Arts Center gets Sandra Hall Ray's name

In a cozy, family-friendly, heart-felt ceremony before a Sunday matinee performance of *Peter Pan* on Aug. 3, the center for fine arts for the Alabama college system was given a name: the Sandra Hall Ray Fine Arts Center.

After decades of supporting Shelton State and education in general, Ray, a state board of education member, will in the future be linked with one of the college's strongest attributes—its artistic and theatrical programs.

Assistant Dean Linda Grote, emcee for the ceremony, pointed out that Ray became a board member of Shelton's foundation more than 20 years ago. "She has been a leader in education and the arts in the region and in

our state," Grote said.

It was her leadership in nurturing the college to the point it is today, with 7,000 students and a widely-admired campus that made her an easy choice for the recognition. Included in her efforts is her fundraising success in helping build the Bean-Brown Theatre on campus.

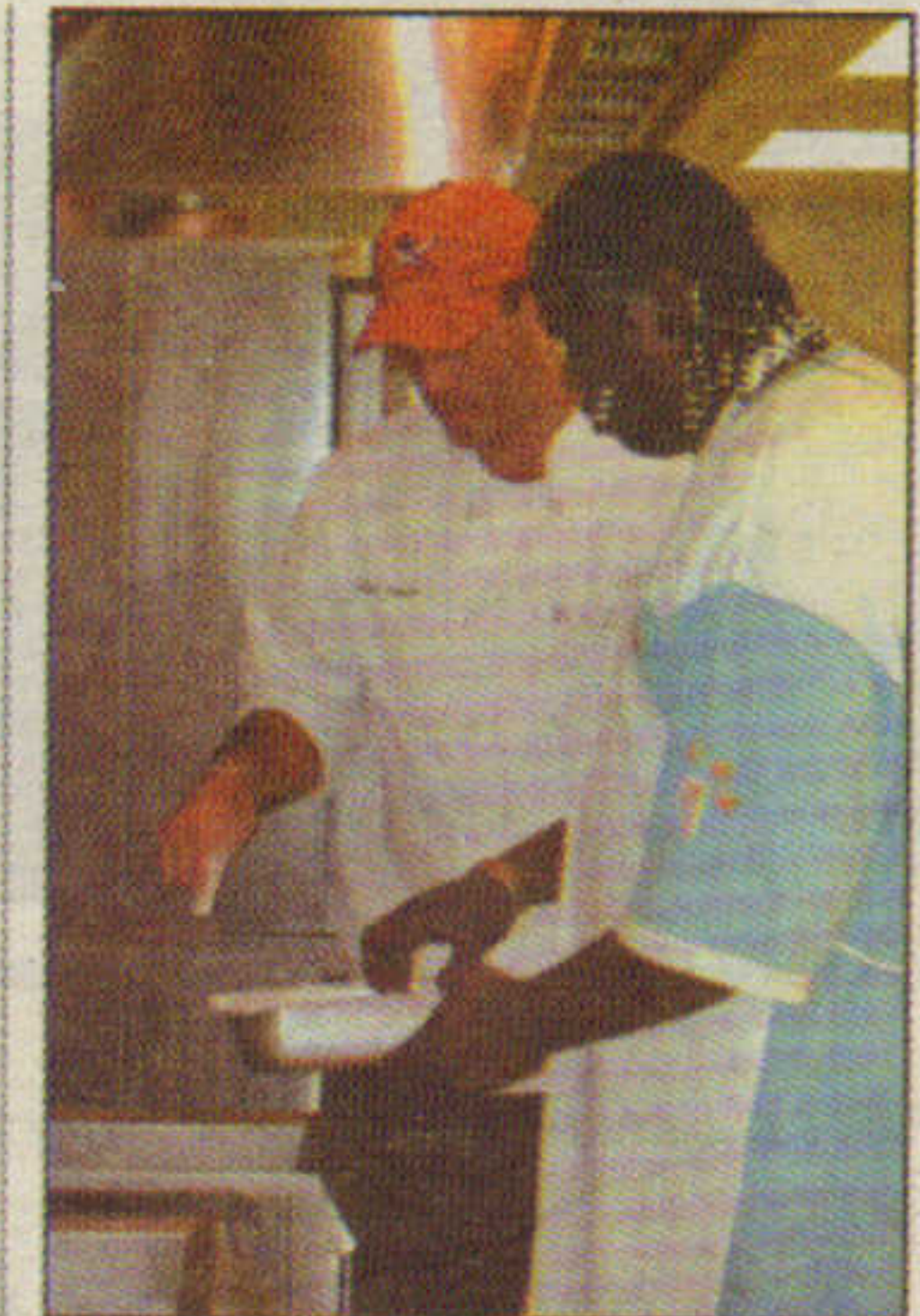
As if to underscore the significance of this development in the history of the college, many dignitaries were on hand, including former Shelton president Dr. Tom Umphrey and the executive secretary of the Alabama Education Association, Dr. Paul Hubbard. The chancellor

See Sandra Hall Ray

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Chancellor Dr. Roy Johnson and Sandra Hall Ray get help from the grandkids in unveiling Ray's portrait. A full family shot with IDs is printed on page 6.



Photo/Brandon Lovett

Neil Ravenna (L) and Eddie Branch prepare lunch at the Clock Tower Cafe.

Cafe tries new concept

By Amy P. Oswalt
Editor

After years of struggle, Shelton's food court reopened this fall under new management found within their own staff.

Neil Ravenna, instructor of the commercial foods program and director of food service, took the opportunity to run the commercial foods program at the Martin Campus.

Before coming to Shelton, Ravenna served as the executive chef at the University Club for more than six years. Three years ago, Ravenna was asked by Shelton to instruct a gourmet cooking class. He later took over the commercial foods program at the C.A. Fredd Campus, and

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Inside
The Courier



WANT TO BE A MASCOT?
Or would you like to try to
name him?
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Photo/Brandon Lovett

Actress Stacy Alley takes a "Pan pose" on the Bean-Brown stage.

Q&A with Stacy Alley

*professional actress, acting teacher,
former west-coast resident*

By Chris McNac
Staff Writer

Actress Stacy Alley sets her sights from acting to teaching the theatrical art to others. Since she was seven years old, the Jasper native knew she was going to make it big in the entertainment world.

It started early in her life, with performances in *Annie* (directed by Theatre Tuscaloosa's head Paul Looney) and Radio City Music Hall's *Christmas Spectacular* before she had even graduated high school. After graduating from Walker High, Alley's desire to get out of Alabama led her to Los Angeles, where she attended the University of Southern California as an undergraduate and eventually got a Bachelor of Arts in acting.

The city of angels provided a nice break from Southern life, but it didn't suffice for what Alley wanted. So, after several years, she returned to Alabama with a longing to spend time with family and with her husband, whom she met working on cruise ships while in California.

Alley and her other half both obtained their Master of Fine Arts from the University of Alabama and just lately performed together in the Bean-Brown Theatre's production of *Peter Pan*; Alley played the 11-year old boy who refused to age while her husband, a practicing jazz musician, worked in the orchestra. Recently, the *Courier* had the privilege of sitting down and talking with Stacy Alley after a performance of *Pan*.

At what point did you decide acting was a career to pursue and why does it appeal to you?

I've always known. When I was like seven years old I was quoted saying I was going to be a professional entertainer and so, I've always known. I didn't know that teaching was the direction that I'd go in at first, but I knew that somehow I'd be involved in the theater and I thank God I have parents who are supportive of that. I know a lot of people whose parents are like "Get a real career!" you know? So, I'm lucky that I'll be able to teach and hopefully I'll still get to perform in the summer.

What how did you get along with Paul Looney?

Paul's great. He has got a vision of what he wants and he knows how to get it. He's a stickler, you know, he doesn't mess around. He is all about professionalism and I like that. It's hard work and you can't, pardon my French, do anything half-assed. He expects 100% all the time and I'm willing to give it, but I think sometimes when the cast is big it takes a lot for people to understand that. This is a big show and it takes someone like him, someone dedicated to get it together. There are a lot of aspects involved in the show that he keeps driving home, you know? It's about safety and it's about collaboration and its

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Phi Theta Kappa

September Events

Phi Theta Kappa welcomes everyone back to school this fall semester. We have planned some exciting events for the Fall and would like to encourage students to participate in our exciting events.

September 2

Phi Theta Kappa Lunch, 12:30, D room near Clock Tower Cafe. Members and provisional members are invited to attend. RSVP nlce@sheltonstate.edu.

September 4

Faculty Appreciation Carwash (Scholarship Fundraiser) 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Martin Campus parking lot near the loading dock on the bookstore side. Students \$5.00, Faculty free. Park, go to class, return to a clean car.

PTK members and provisional members please call or email (above) to volunteer or help out. We're raising money to help a PTK student attend the Regional Leadership Retreat. Drinks and good times provided.

September 21, 23, 24

Phi Theta Kappa Orientation

Come and hear all about us. If you received an invitation to join PTK, please call or email (see above) to register for one of the three sessions to find out how you can become a member.

September 24

Phi Theta Kappa presents the "Profiles in Leadership" speaker series. Our first guest is Colonel Stephen Kaye, commander of 20th Special Forces Group in Afghanistan. Room 2255 at 10 a.m. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to attend.

September 25

PTK Honors Topics Movie Night—"Girl Interrupted"

Alabama Power Recital Hall, Martin Campus, 6 p.m.

Free popcorn; child care available. For PTK members and provisional members.

MARS VIEWING

After months of building excitement, it's finally here — the best appearance of the red planet any of us ever will see. Join the Shelton State astronomy lab for a viewing party of Mars, fourth rock from the sun, Aug. 25, 26 or 27 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) from 9:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the astronomy lab site, located directly behind the small pond on campus by the brick pump house.



Photo/NPR

Shelton State Courier

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The Shelton State Courier is a campus newspaper, written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression, and all students are urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic

freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper.

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

The Courier is an equal opportunity employer and student organization. All students are encouraged to participate.

The Courier presents
**Name the Buccaneer
 Mascot Contest**



It's time for all Shelton students to show just how much creativity they have.

What do you think Shelton's new mascot should be named? Submit your answers to the *Courier* office (Room 2319) on any sheet of paper along with your name and phone number by Friday, Sept. 5.

Entries will be judged and three finalists will be announced in the Sept. 9 *Courier*.

Out of those three, the student body will vote for their favorite name and the winner will be announced at the mascot tryouts on Sept. 16. The person whose submission is chosen will receive \$100 worth of Shelton merchandise.

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Mascot Tryouts

**Tuesday, Sept. 16
 12:30 p.m. in the atrium**

The mascot-actor will receive a cheerleader scholarship.

Mascot selection will be based on the following criteria:

1. Must be a student in good standing
2. Interview
3. Skit written by you and performed on Sept. 16

Call Assistant Dean Susan Mohun at 391-2223
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Lady Bucs ready to roll

By K.A. West
Staff Writer

Like a kid waiting impatiently for Christmas morning, Shelton State women's soccer coach Nellie Christian spent her summer counting down the days until Aug. 10.

That Sunday marked the first day of preseason, a week of three-a-day practices, plus fitness tests. In addition to the benefits of the extra conditioning, the practices gave an elated Christian ample time to evaluate all 23 players, plus one red-shirt.

The 13 freshmen are expected to play right away and are challenging the 10 returning players for playing time and starts.

"I was very excited about preseason," she said. "And it only gets better from here."

As the former University of Alabama soccer standout embarks on her sixth season as head coach, it's remarkable how far the program has come since being started in 1996 by Arthur Howington, who now coaches at Holy Spirit High.

After last year's team finished 7-8-4 with virtually no substitutes, Christian spent the off-season collecting players from all over the state, plus a recruit from Utah and a Colombia native.

Depth and skill level are the two biggest differences this season. Christian hasn't made a starting lineup because each position is at least two-deep.

She is planning to experiment with several combinations of players and will rotate 15-16 players, in addition to going two deep into the bench.

"We can play any 11 players at any given time," Christian said.

In the past seven seasons, only four players have gone on to play for a four-year college. Highlighting the upgrades in talent and improved recruiting, Christian estimates that half of the current players are talented enough to advance to four-year schools.

"We're competing with four-year schools now for soccer players with good skills," she said.

"In the past, we were looking for athletes who could play soccer.

"The talent level is up, and we have players who have grown up playing soccer and

understand tactically how to play the game."

Sophomore goalkeeper Teresa Herring will lead the defensive unit, while sophomore Railey White and freshman Margaux Edington will split time at the sweeper and stopper positions. Sophomores Beth Johnson, Kim West and Sabrina Wailes, plus freshman Betsy Yeatman and Shannon Everett, will rotate as defensive backs.

Sophomore Jana Green and freshman Krista McMillan will direct the offensive attack at the center midfielder position. Sophomores Dottie Sloan and Stephanie Stams will be responsible for making runs and setting up shots as outside midfielders.

Freshmen Molly Einfeldt, Tori Dark and Lindsey Tate will also mix it up in the mid-field.

The forwards will give opposing backs fits this season, thanks to the nifty moves of freshmen Erica Glidewell and Maria Lizcano, and the breakaway speed of sophomore Megan Young.

Sophomore Heather Barnes (forward), freshman Amy Green (defender), Greta Perkins (goalkeeper/defender), Brooklyn Lewis (midfielder, goalkeeper) and Dreama Jones (defender) will give Shelton State plenty of options, although Barnes will miss 3-4 weeks due to a stress fracture in her left foot.

Since the Lady Bucs are the only two-year school in Alabama to field women's soccer, Shelton State is automatically state and Region 22 champions.

To qualify for the district tournament, a team must have a .500 winning percentage or above. Shelton State is part of District G, which also includes Regions 8, 17 and 23.

After two weeks of practice, the Lady Bucs have displayed a flair for passing the ball, steady goalkeeping and good chemistry.

But in order to make it through a grueling 20-game schedule that features perennial powers Pearl River, Hinds and Gordon, the team is working on defensive marking, finishing shots and overall intensity.

The district tournament is held in early November, and the national championship



Photo/submitted

The 2003 Shelton State Lady Buccaneer soccer team are (L-R, first row) Sabrina Wailes, Kim West, Tori Dark, Greta Perkins, Margaux Edington, Railey White, Megan Young; (second row) Jana Green, Dreama Jones, Erica Glidewell, Brooklyn Lewis, Beth Johnson, Shannon Everett, Teresa Herring, Heather Barnes, Stephanie Stams; (third row) Brandon Wailes, Amy Stanley, Amy Green, Betsy Yeatman, Krista McMillan, Lauren Adair, Dottie Sloan, Lindsey Tate, Brandon Griffen, Coach Nellie Christian.

tournament is usually scheduled the week before Thanksgiving.

Christian prefers not to focus on the end of the season or on particular teams.

Instead, she wants the team to focus on winning every game.

"Individually, I want my players to do well on the field and in the classroom."

Lady Bucs matches

Aug. 29
Tennessee Temple
Home 3 p.m.

Aug. 30
Tennessee Temple
Home 8 a.m.

Aug. 31
Andrew College
Home 4 p.m.

Sept. 4
Meridian CC
Home 2 p.m.

Sept. 7
Andrew College
Cuthbert, Ga. 7 p.m.

Shelton State is hosting the Labor Day Soccer Classic on Aug. 29-31. The Lady Bucs are tentatively scheduled to play Tennessee-Temple at 3

p.m. Friday and Darton College at noon Saturday.

Shelton State will also play Andrew College at 4 p.m. Sunday.

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Cafe

From page 2

he now runs the entire commercial foods program which spans the Martin and Fredd Campuses.

Ravenna began his Martin campus career in June by serving only breakfast in the food court because of the small amount of students attending Shelton during the summer.

With the start of the fall semester, business is starting to boom with breakfast and lunch being served.

Customers should be looking forward to new choices available to them.

"For diversity, we brought Subway in so that essentially a student or a faculty member could eat five days a week here and not have the same thing every single day," said Ravenna.

Subway exists as its own entity with its own employees in what is now known as the Clock Tower Cafe. However, the rest of the Cafe is run not only by Ravenna but also his students.

"The second-semester students in the commercial foods program are doing a majority

of the cooking," said Ravenna.

The first-semester students stay in the classroom the majority of the time learning about basic restaurant procedures and food preparation.

Two of the graduates of the program are employed at the Clock Tower Cafe.

The cafe still has room for one more restaurant, but Ravenna is not sure when or who will fill that space.

Eventually, other items will be added inside the Cafe. A Campbell's soup kiosk was purchased to be installed sometime in the fall. It will offer two different soups everyday.

Even without the soup kiosk, the Cafe has seen incredible business so far this semester, according to Ravenna.

Keeping the customers coming will remain a top concern, but Ravenna believes they have that covered.

"The selection and quality of the food that we have out there at a decent price is going to keep them coming back," said Ravenna.

With these high hopes and big plans, many at Shelton are crossing their fingers for the success of the Clock Tower Cafe.

College enrollment tops 7,000

From Staff Reports

President Rick Rogers announced that Shelton State Community College has once again broken their own enrollment record. There are 7,069 students enrolled in academic, career technical and short-term classes this fall, a seven percent increase over fall 2002. This marks the fifth consecutive year that Shelton State has seen enrollment increases.

Rogers attributes this continued enrollment growth to several factors. "I feel that this growth reflects the tremendous reputation of our faculty and the very special attention shown by our staff. We are fortunate to be able to serve West Alabama's educational and workforce training needs and offer that education at a price that is realistic and feasible for all students. We pride ourselves on the fact that Shelton State has offered a quality, affordable education to Tuscaloosa and the surrounding area for the past fifty years and will continue to do so in the future," Rogers said.

Dean of Students, Humphrey Lee added, "We also have a great working relationship with our area high schools and with four year institutions such as UA. That allows us to present students with a seamless transition from high school to Shelton State, and then either on to further education or out into the workforce. Serving this many students without that type of cooperation would be impossible. We truly appreciate everyone that works together to better the lives of students in West Alabama, and are proud to be a part of that team."

Making the chimes story perfectly clear...

By Jamie Brewer

A little clarification is in order on the technology of the clock tower here at Shelton. In a carillon installation, the bell is stationary with the bell clapper being put into motion to strike the bell. In Shelton's clock tower, under each bell there is an electronic unit to do this. Contrast this standardized electronic unit to the complicated series of pulleys, springs, levers and cables that had to be used in the past. Because this equipment is exposed to all types of environmental factors, installation and maintenance of these old style installations can be a nightmare.

The vanBergen company who designed and installed Shelton's clock tower has also perfected "digital bells." Through digital technology traditional carillons can be augmented digitally giving a greater range of notes. This company has even developed techniques to re-create the sound of a swinging bell, which has a totally different sound from that of a stationary bell.

Technology such as this would have been music to ears of Quasimodo, the legendary hunch-backed bellringer of fifteenth century Paris.

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Alley

From page 2

about communication and without that things could go wrong. I mean, my life is pretty much in the guy's hands.

I read you got your Bachelor's from USC, was there a reason you went there or was it just to get out of Alabama?

Well, my dance teacher used to take us all over the U.S. and we'd go to New York and L.A. in the summers and, you know, I thought I wanted to be famous at one point, or I thought I wanted to be out in L.A. but once I met my husband and I thought about where I really wanted to live and what I wanted my life to be like, and L.A. was not what I wanted.

You know, there's a stereotype, and there's a stereotype for a reason.

I met some great people, but usually from other places. School was wonderful, but I just didn't want to live out there.

Do you think it's a realistic aspiration to become an actor or actress?

Sure, but I don't think it has a lot to do with talent, which is one really frustrating thing in L.A. Los Angeles, I think more so than New York, is very "what you look like" and that's fine, but don't waste my time if I'm coming in and I don't look like the part that you have.

So, you think in L.A. it's more superficiality than talent?

Well, yeah, I mean for the most part it is. I don't want to make a blanket statement, but sometimes it does have to do with who you know and who you schmooze with and I'm not saying that for every company or whatever. I still think it's a realistic aspiration, but I think that you have to be very persistent.

I've got friends in LA right now that will probably be waiting tables and doing little bit parts for 30 years, but that's just not what I wanted for myself.

So, you know, it could be the result of a lot of hard work or the result of just a lucky break.

Did you teach any as a graduate

student, and did you learn anything from it?

I taught lots as a graduate student; that's the thing about Alabama's program, it's a pedagogy program and so they put you right in there. You're not really a teaching assistant; you're a teacher.

I taught two classes each semester and I loved it. I got to teach several different classes, from beginning acting to theater class for secondary language arts majors.

How do you teach acting? What do you tell students?

There are so many different methods and approaches to it, and there's a whole big debate about if acting can be taught, and I think that it definitely can be taught, but there has to be a certain amount of talent there as well.

I think that the approaches and exercises that you teach in acting class are there to help bring out that talent.

Yeah, that's a tough question; we could talk for days about that.

Is Arkansas State your last stop or do you have future acting aspirations?

Right now, I don't really have any idea. If we can deal with him gigging [husband Rob] and me teaching part-time or whatever then that would be the best thing, but who knows if in three years he'll be looking for a job.

So, if in three years something comes up and it's in San Diego, which I love, I might be like "See ya," but who knows?

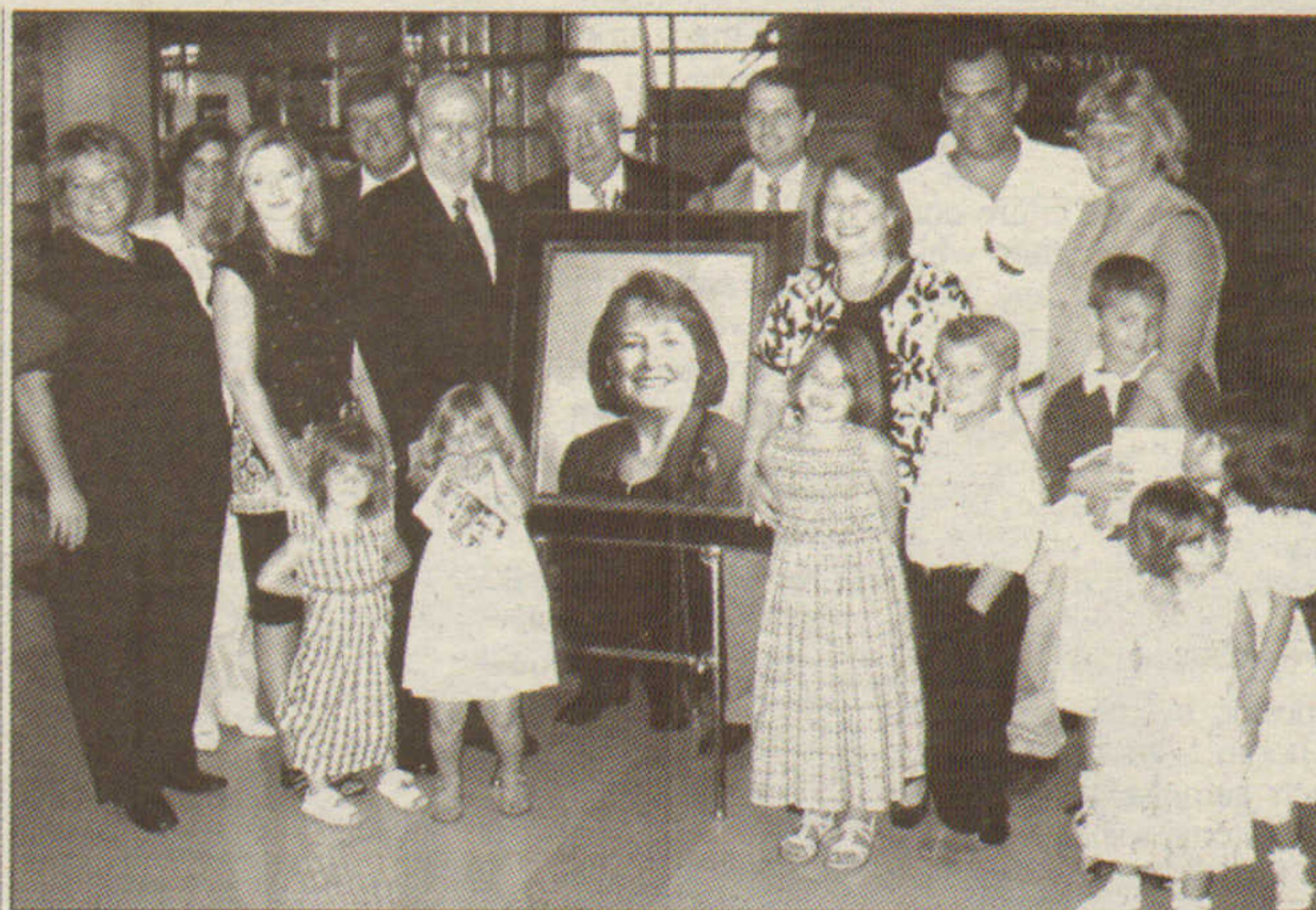
This is a great job for me and the aspect that I get to teach both acting and dance is unusual.

I applied to many different positions, and I'm very lucky to have even gotten a job, a position straight out of graduate school.

I applied to both theatre jobs and dance jobs and the fact that I can do both helped.

I just felt at home with them, when I went for my on-campus interview; it just felt right. Who knows, I may be there for five years, I may be there for 20, but we'll see.

Luckily we're an hour from Memphis, so that's good for my husband; at least we're not in the middle of nowhere.



Photo/Courier staff

The honoree's family on hand for the naming of the Sandra Hall Ray Fine Arts Center included (adults, L-R) Michele Youngblood, Maria Ray, Nikki Abston, Borden Ray, Revis Hall, Martin Ray, Byron Abston, Sandra Ray, Roger Tatum, Allison Tatum; and (children) Emma Abston, Jordan Tatum, Abby Abston, Logan Youngblood, Daniel

Sandra Hall Ray

From page 1

of the system, Dr. Roy Johnson, made comments and helped out in the unveiling of a portrait which will be hung in the school's east wing. Johnson also paid tribute to Ray's education roots, recognizing her father, former Jefferson County school superintendent Dr. Revis Hall, in the crowd of about 100 well-wishers.

Johnson spoke of the need for education in the arts. "The arts are how we transfer our values. Through the arts, we permanently convey to the future our history and our heritage."

Ray was typically self-effacing and good-humored in accepting this tribute. "I can't paint or act or sing—yet—but I can support the arts. And this is what I plan to do."



Photo/submitted

Switch-board operator Rachel Taylor has shared the missionary progress of former popular administrator Tommy Taylor. Here Taylor and his son T.J. send greetings from the Andes Mountains in Santiago, Chile.

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Vote

From Page 1

argue, can doubt his call for reform of the tax system?

The full text of the plan appeared in the *Tuscaloosa News* on Aug. 24 and it was clear from the reading that, even after thousands of words (almost one-and-a-half pages of newspaper print), every dollar allocation and every change would not be spelled out. This is where the recommendation of elected officials like Circuit Judge John England comes in handy.

At the Hillcrest Town Hall Meeting, England turned deadly serious when he spoke of the effects of a tax increase. "It will affect me. I will pay more taxes. But as best I can tell, this will distribute the burden more fairly. I was worried about my property, but I'm satisfied that waste will be eliminated and it will be fair."

Yet going into the last two weeks of the campaign before the Sept. 9 vote, a majority of voters seem to remain unconvinced. At the Hillcrest meeting, much ado was made of the 44-page pamphlet titled "Laying the

Foundation for Greatness" which explains the plan and answers critics questions. Yet one audience member was greeted with applause when he called out a question about the supposed \$15 billion state budget. Neil Wade, of the Alabama Economic Development Office, and Carl Ferguson, of the University of Alabama business school, took pains to point out that the two funds which comprise the budget are the general and the education funds which both total to \$5 billion. And about \$675 million of that is the current state shortfall.

Faith that elected officials can and will do the right thing to meet the state money crunch is much stronger among the Shelton students, most of whom seem to back Riley's plan.

Student Wesley Cotton's comments seem typical. "I plan to vote yes on the tax program, if it improves the problems of the state, then it is a good plan."

"I believe we need to do something to help our state's economic situation," said Shelton student Patrick Boswell. "I think he is making an effort to evenly distribute the amount each class of peo-

ple ss being taxed. I admire the fact that Gov. Riley is making a considerable effort to help our state."

The students seem to tune in to the air of skepticism that pervades this issue. "It baffles me that people do not trust our elected officials—people we put in office!" commented Callan Holt.

One student, who wanted to be identified only as Jennifer, had the same gut reaction as the rank-and-file across the state. Yet she conceded she needs to learn more. "Do not raise the taxes! I will not vote for it. Taxes are out of control, so I'm not for it at all. Well, maybe after I hear more about the other side, I will think about it more and understand why they want this, but more likely I will still vote no."

State taxation is not the solution was the theme of a broadside sheet dropped off at the *Courier* after the last issue, which outlined Riley's address to the community college employees.

According to Don Wallace, CPA, in his "Tax Plan Fails to Deal with State Spending Problems," the problem is that there is not adequate support for educa-

tion in the local communities. "The Riley administration should be aware of an Auburn University study that found when education revenues are collected and spent locally, students are more successful compared to systems with higher levels of state and federal education spending"

But virtually every referendum for tax increase that has ever been put on a ballot has failed, most especially in Tuscaloosa county. Only in the wealthier communities, such as Mountain Brook, have such self-taxing measures passed. Defenders of the Riley plan have little doubt that this situation will remain the same.

Of course, education is not the only area that would be helped by an historic revamping of the state's tax system.

Judge England said the judicial system is at its wit's end in trying to figure out what to do with the state prisoners. And, he insists, we would all just not be safe with another cut in the state trooper force—which is certainly coming if voters do not pass the referendum.

The question is: Do the Alabama taxpayers believe the benefits of change are worthy of the pain of change?

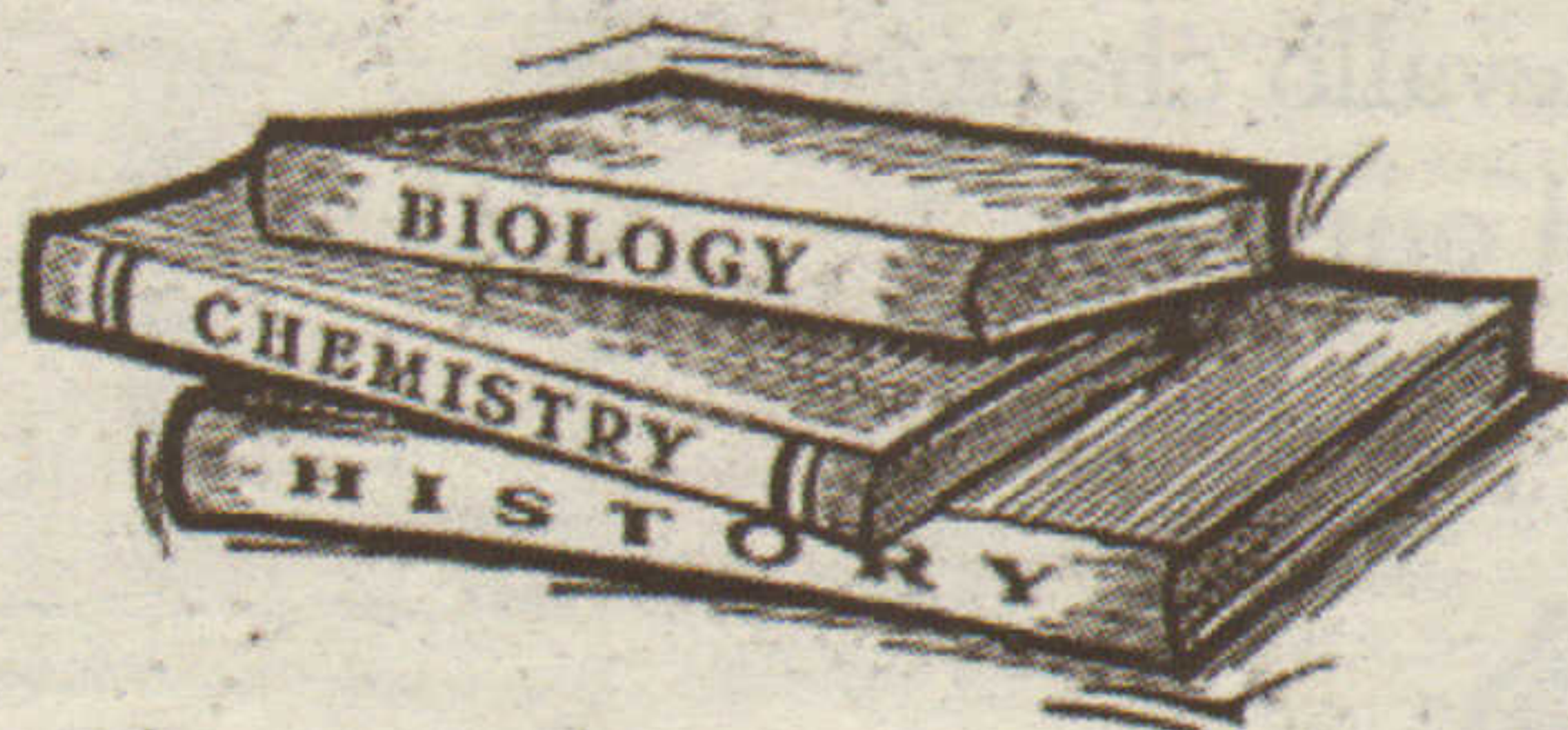


Photo/Brandon Lovett

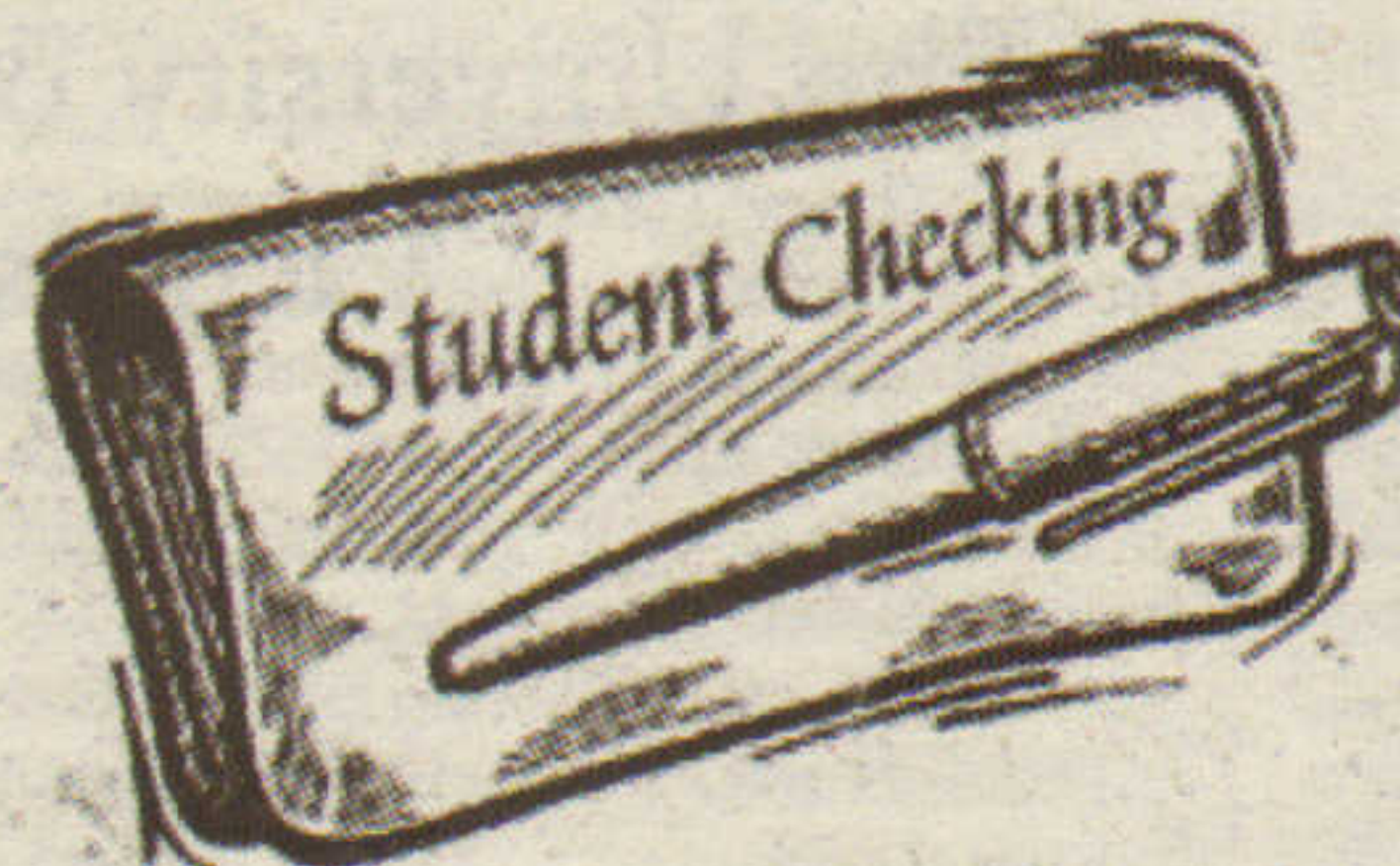
Heating and air-conditioning instructor Sonny Logan was surprised by his students recently when they presented him with a plaque thanking him.

Or to quote the plaque itself, "For giving of yourself. For the knowledge you've shared. And for always going that extra mile. For the fun, the laughter, and the support you gave us all. We'll never forget you."

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